

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

Chief of Station, []
Chief of Base, []
Chief, Western Hemisphere Division
[]

Ref: [] 21276, 21 July 1970

1. In answer to paragraph 1 of Reference, "DARNAND's militia" was a German collaborationist group, not a Communist party group. A brief background summary follows:

Joseph DARNAND [] was the leader of the "Elite Guard" in the Service d'Ordre Legionnaire (SOL) formed in 1941 in France, which consisted of fanatical supporters of the "National Revolution" organized by Marshal PETAIN. Upon the dissolution of SOL in 1943, DARNAND became the leader of the Milice Francaise, a Nazi-like party. In 1944 DARNAND was said to wield great power in France as the supreme head of "all forces for the maintenance of order" and was given virtually unlimited authority as chief of a newly-created "Economic police." The Germans, while retaining Marshal PETAIN as nominal chief of state and Pierre LEVAL as nominal chief of Government, placed DARNAND, the man of their choice, in the key position of Secretary of State for the Interior under the Vichy Government. During this period DARNAND was directly under the orders of the Wehrmacht and wore the uniform of the SS. DARNAND left France in 1944 with the rest of the Vichy Government and in June 1945 he was arrested in Italy and turned over to French Government authorities.

2. [] name does not appear among the documents in DARNAND's 201 file.

Distribution:

2 - []
2 - []

[] 10475

14 September 1970

SECRET

WH/5/CA

jdf

9379

1 - WH/5 Chrono
1 - 201
1 - Temp Subj

C/WH/5